

WHEN GOD SPEAKS...

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“God is not a man, that he should lie nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil ? (Num 23:19)

“.. For you have exalted above all things your name and your word” (Ps. 138:2)

God our Father, the creator of the universe does not lie or alter the words that went forth from his lips. When he speaks, he means every word, and stands by every word to bring it to pass.

When he speaks, he demands immediate obedience because he means what he has said. It may sound strange in your ears, but he knows and understands more than all men. The instruction may appear stupid or hard to carry out, but came out of great wisdom.

God does not make mistakes - He is infallible. He does not say what he cannot accomplish. In fact, there is nothing he cannot do. His word is the final authority on every subject and situation. He is to be feared and revered.

To disobey him is to rebel against his authority. To rebel is to question his wisdom and insight. To disobey him, is to challenge the power that backs his word. To disobey him, is to contend with the power of God. When God speaks everyone should pay attention, and promptly obey. Failure to comply is always disastrous.

When God speaks, his entire personality and power is contained in it. His image and name is always at stake when He speaks. That is why he can never fail to fulfil his word. That is the reason why he is watching over his word to fulfil it (Jer. 1:12). This is also the reason why He is no respecter of persons. He is not partial. He does not have different laws for different people, tribes or races. It is the same laws that govern all. Your responsibility is to learn his will in all and every subject and circumstance, and promptly and whole heartedly obey them.

FEAR HIM

After the Israelites came out of Egypt, at the desert of sin, they grumbled against Moses and Aaron about food. Moses cried to the Lord, and he answered him.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days”

“The LORD said to Moses, I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, at twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God”. That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around

the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: "Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent". The Israelites did as they were told; some gather much, some little. And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too much, and he who gathered much as he needed. Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning. However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much - two omers for each person-and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded:

'Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning. So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. 'Eat it today, 'Moses said, 'because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any, Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. Then the LORD said to Moses 'How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?

Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where he is on the seventh day; no - one is to go out; So the people rested on the seventh day" (Exodus 16:4,5,11-30)

There are so many awesome revelations of the power that backs God's words from the above passage:

1. The manna and quail will come and actually came at the command of God. This phenomenon did not exist before God spoke them into existence.
2. The manna will fall only in the early hours of the morning. It can't fall in the afternoon or evening. The quail only comes in their thousands in the evenings and at no other time.
3. The manna can only be gathered in the morning, and each person should gather only what will last for a day. It is not to be left till the next day.
4. In the afternoon under the sun, the manna melts away. If it is preserved till the next day, it will start stinking and develop maggots.
5. From the first day of the week to the fifth day, the Israelites were to gather the manna daily according to their daily needs. But, on the sixth day, they were to gather for two days because they are not supposed to work on the seventh day which is a Sabbath day.
6. The most amazing thing is that the manna gathered on the sixth day does not stink or develop maggots on the seventh day as is the case in the first to fifth

day. It is the same manna from the same source, but remains fresh the second day because God said it will be so.

7. On the seventh day, no manna falls on every other day except on the seventh day. It was so, because God said it will be so.

From the story we have been considering, we see that when God speaks, he backs it up with power, and as a result, things happen exactly as he has said. The same manna that got rotten after 24 hours, lasted 48 hours on the sixth and seventh day just because he said it will be so. In fact, the manna didn't fall on the seventh day.

God also asked Moses to *"Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt"* (Exodus 16:32). You can see that the same manna that couldn't last for more than 24 hours, will now be preserved in a jar for generations yet unborn as a testimony of the acts of God's kindness and power. All these happened because that was how God commanded it to be.

What I want you to see is that when God speaks, he does it. When God speaks, he is specific, he is detailed. Every word, every instruction counts. If he took time to be specific and detailed, then you must take time to obey every word and instruction. He has reasons for everything. God can give an instruction, may be just to test our level of obedience. The same manna on certain days that could not last for more than 24 hours, lasted for 48 hours on certain days, and an omer stored up in a jar, lasted for generations.

The Israelites thought God was joking or probably is not concerned about details. He said they should not gather more than they can eat in a day, and should not allow it to stay till the next day. They disobeyed. Maybe they thought nothing would happen or they want to see what will happen. They discovered that the manna was full of maggots and began to smell. They were not to go out to gather manna on the seventh day, yet, some of them did and discovered the manna did not fall on the seventh day.

God is not happy when he gives an instruction and his instructions are despised. Don't be a victim of disobedience. The consequences are too grave. Take heed on how you attend to the word of God.

"Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth, meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful". (Joshua 1:8)

When God gives an instruction, carry it out when he said you should and how he says you should. Mary the mother of Jesus said, *"Do whatever he tells you to do."* Your miracle, breakthrough and blessing, even your life lies in your obedience. At God's instruction, Moses punished Egypt with plagues until they were allowed to leave Egypt. At God's specific instruction, Moses divided the red sea and closed it up again against the Egyptian army. At God's instruction Moses brought out water for Israel to drink in the desert. At God's specific instruction, the walls of Jericho fell down flat. At the instruction of Jesus, water became wine to save the bridegroom from shame at his wedding. The scripture

is full of examples of how God changed people's lives when they obeyed his word. Your life will be changed for good if you will act with all your heart in obedience to God's word.

If you choose the part of disobedience like the people of Israel did many times you will pay dearly, as they paid for their rebellion.

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgement and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or the three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the son of God under foot, who has treated as unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the spirit of grace? For we know him who said, 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay, ' and again' The Lord will judge his people.' It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:26-31).

CONCLUSION

Take God's word serious. Obey his instructions. Live by the words of God. They are life to him that finds them. It pays to be obedient. If you are obedient, you will eat the good of the Land, God said. God is not a joker. He does not talk for talking sake. **He says only what he means, and means everything he says.** Jesus said, *"The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."* His spirit is in his word, and gives it life. His power is backing it up. God's word can never fail or disappoint. When God speaks, you obey promptly. When God speaks, you smile at him and obey with joy, and smiles and joy will be yours forever. But, if you refuse to obey him, I am sorry for you.

Never play with God's instructions. Never despise the word of God on any subject. Trust the wisdom of God. It may not make sense to you. That it does not make human sense does not make it to be without wisdom. God is wisdom and the source of true wisdom and knowledge. It will be foolish of you to hear God's instruction and not carry it out. Jesus taught that the one who was instructed and did not carry it out will be beaten with many blows and "To whom much is given much is expected". The more you know God's word, the more God expects obedience from you. Give attention to God's word.

If you have not given your life to Jesus Christ, give your life to him now. Don't postpone it again. If you are not saved, you are not safe. Repent, and believe the gospel. Accept Jesus now.